

REMARKS

1. Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8 and 67-71 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. The Examiner asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis in claims 1 and 67 for the recitation “the bcl-2 pre-mRNA or mRNA.” As presently amended, “a bcl-2 pre-mRNA ...” has been substituted for “the bcl-2 pre-mRNA....” This amendment corrects the antecedent basis and overcomes the rejection.

2. Rejection Under 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-8 and 67-71 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement in view of the use of the term “oligomer,” which the Examiner asserts is broader than the nucleic acid embodiments disclosed in the specification. The term “oligomer” has been replaced throughout the claims with the term “oligonucleotide” to indicate the nucleic acid nature of the oligomer. Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present amendments overcome the rejections and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof. If any outstanding issues remain in this case and the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone interview would be useful to resolve them, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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